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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Proposal with a view to supplementing the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003)

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 48/91 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly decided to proclaim the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, beginning in 1993, and adopted the Programme of Action proposed for the Third Decade.

2. In paragraph 17 of resolution 48/91, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to submit proposals to it with a view to supplementing, if necessary, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

3. This note is in response to that invitation. It contains topics for consideration and recommendations to States and non-governmental organizations.

1. Topics for consideration

4. The following topics reflect current aspects of racism and racial discrimination and should therefore be dealt with in studies or seminars:

(a) Racism, racial discrimination and economic disparities;

(b) Racism and sexism;

(c) Manipulation of nationalist sentiment for racist ends;

(d) The spread of revisionism;

(e) Ethnic exclusivism and racism.

2. Recommendations to States

5. The Member States concerned should adopt emergency measures to put an end to acts of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers and refugees.

6. Member States should also give particular attention to the situation of women belonging to ethnic or racial minorities who are victims of double discrimination based on gender and on ethnic or racial identity.

3. Recommendations to non-governmental organizations

7. Since there was nothing in the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination concerning action to be undertaken by non-governmental organizations, the General Assembly may wish to address the following recommendations to them:

(a) International non-governmental organizations should continue to stimulate their national affiliates to take appropriate measures, particularly in cooperation with national teachers' and student organizations, to ensure that education for the elimination of racism and all forms of racial discrimination is incorporated into the curricula of teacher training courses, including for primary and secondary school teachers;

(b) Non-governmental organizations, together with youth and student associations, should organize regular programmes designed to eliminate racism and all forms of racial discrimination, in particular in educational and training institutions;

(c) Non-governmental organizations should organize training seminars for elementary and secondary school teachers on teaching and learning about human rights and on anti-racist education;

(d) Non-governmental organizations should propose to national departments or ministries of education specific literature that would be incorporated in basic textbooks for elementary school classes to help children develop an anti-racist and intercultural consciousness which respects differences;

(e) National departments and ministries of education should review school curricula with a view to promoting solidarity through the teaching of human rights and ways to combat racism and through the creation of awareness in schools of global issues and problems;

(f) Non-governmental organizations should cooperate in conducting educational programmes, including human rights education for all children who do not receive a full basic education;

(g) Non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with the United Nations, should organize training seminars to mobilize and sensitize individuals engaged in the defence of human rights and national authorities, taking into account the provisions of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;

(h) Non-governmental organizations should create networks linking teachers, persons with special knowledge in areas relating to human rights, and youth in order to foster understanding of the necessity for personal commitment in the fight against racism and human rights violations;

(i) Non-governmental organizations should regularly provide information to teachers and to the media about human rights in general, the crimes of racism and racial discrimination, and their own activities and the activities of the United Nations system in this field;

(j) Non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with regional intergovernmental bodies, should organize consultations and other activities in an effort to achieve the goals set for the Third Decade.